

In the Specification:

On page 1, insert the following heading above the first paragraph:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

amend the third paragraph, beginning on line 8, as follows:

--Devices for adjusting the axial force in screw joints, including a check device for limiting an axial force operating between e.g. two force-applying elements of the screw joint, are already known. Thus so-called "torque wrenches" which allow mechanical overload control upon exceeding a given torque for a screw joint, are known. In this way, precise detection of the force between the force-applying elements (e.g. a bolt head on a bolt shank as the first force-applying element and a nut on a thread of the bolt shank as the second force-applying element) is not definitely possible. The torque which is applied to tighten a screw joint does cause a change in the axial force between the force-applying elements, as a rotational movement produces a change of distance between the force-applying elements and hence a change in axial force, due to the pitch of the thread of a bolt shank. However, the correlation between axial force and torque is under certain circumstances highly subject to errors, as the frictional forces of a force-applying element on a thread influence the torque critically. When the torques are identical, the tightening force of a screw joint can vary considerably, so that for bolts which slide easily there is a risk of overstretching, whereas in the case of stiff bolts the preselected torque is already attained when the parts to be connected are still loose. Apart from this imprecision, with the mechanical overload protection there is the drawback that only exceeding of the limit is possible, but not exact measurement of the axial force.--

between the third and fourth paragraphs on page 1, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

and on line 32, amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

--This object is achieved by a device ~~according to claim 1~~ for adjusting and testing the axial force in screw joints, wherein the device includes a check device for limiting an axial force operating between force-applying elements of the screw joint, wherein the check device has means for signal value pick-up from a measuring element whose electrical resistance is variable as a function of the operative axial force.--

On page 4, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

and between lines 24 and 25, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.